



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

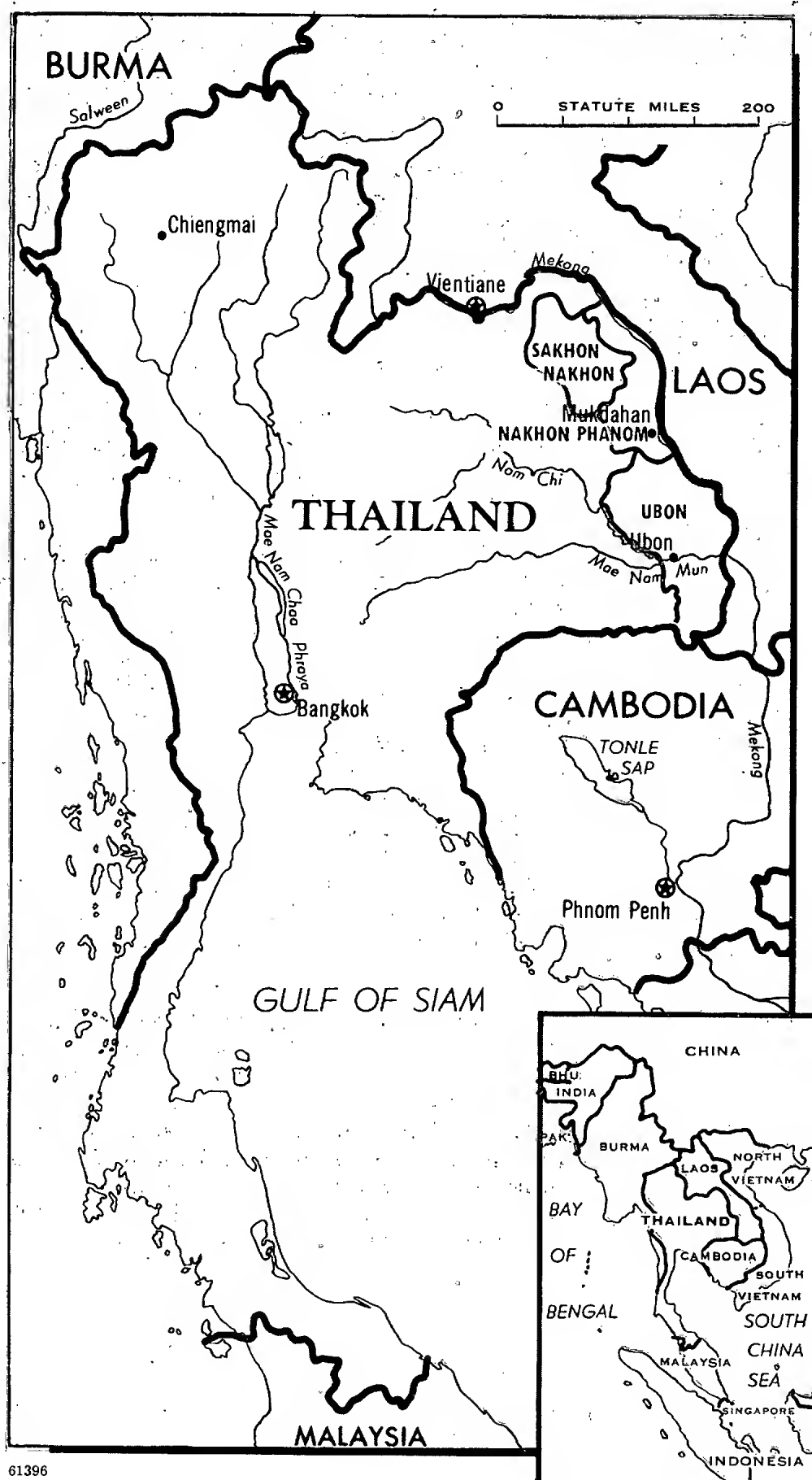


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8 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. NATO

Most NATO governments have indicated their intention of supporting the integrated military structure after France withdraws.

The smaller European nations fear De Gaulle's action will lead the Germans to demand a more independent military position, although German officials say Bonn has no desire for a national army. Bonn apparently wants French troops kept in West Germany, but anticipates prolonged and difficult negotiations with Paris over their status.

The British have suggested calling a special ministerial-level conference to draft a strong declaration by the fourteen in support of NATO.

Some of the smaller members face special problems.

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Denmark wonders if interest in a Scandanavian defense alliance will now revive. Norway and Iceland both think they may have more trouble dealing with internal leftist opposition to their NATO membership.

2. Thailand

Communist-inspired insurgency in the northeast, heretofore centered in Nakhon Phanom Province (see map), spread during February to two adjoining provinces. The number of assassinations and armed clashes between police and Communists in each of these provinces, in fact, well exceeded the rate of subversive activity in Nakhon Phanom.

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3. North Vietnam

High-altitude drone photography [redacted] shows 15 high-performance MIG-21s on the runway at Phuc Yen airfield. This is an increase of four since the last photography. The presence of several crates at the airfield may mean that more have arrived but have not yet been assembled.

[redacted]

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4. Soviet Union

[redacted]

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5. Yugoslavia

President Tito is drumming up a sequel to the nonaligned nations conference held in Belgrade last March--this one to be either in Cairo or Addis Ababa.

[redacted]

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[redacted] Tito has invited 17 leaders of "nonaligned" countries, including Sukarno, apparently in the hope of drawing him away from Peking's influence. In addition to Vietnam, the conference could discuss Rhodesia and the recent military coups in Africa.

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6. Belgium

Foreign Minister Spaak concedes that pressures for trade with Communist China, both from business and parliamentary sources, are rising. He thinks he can put them off for a while, without opening a trade office or doing anything else that would provide a measure of recognition.

Spaak's is about the only finger in the dike, since all the political parties would like to recognize Peking. His ability to hold the line could be undermined by new elections, which appear increasingly likely.

7. Cyprus

Tensions may be about to rise again. President Makarios is expected shortly to shunt supreme army commander Grivas off to a coordinating job. This is likely to cause a strong reaction from certain Greek personalities, [REDACTED]

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Nicosia has recently accused a member of the Turkish Embassy of playing a leading part in underground activities and has demanded his recall. Ankara may refuse to comply.

8. Yemen

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9. Guatemala

The electoral council has resumed tabulating results of Sunday's elections, after almost a full day's embargo of any official information. Latest official figures--apparently padded to favor the government's candidate, Aguilar--now show him in second place, but still 40,000 votes behind the Revolutionary Party's Julio Cesar Mendez.

The government will probably be content with keeping Aguilar in second place, which would assure him a run-off position with Mendez in the likely event that no one receives a majority and congress decides the election.

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